

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 State Route 295
Chatham, New York

TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2020 @ 6:30 PM
Via Google Meet
(Following Special Town Board Meeting)

PRESENT

Supervisor Donal Collins, Councilmembers Vance Pitkin, Abi Mesick, John Wapner, Kevin Weldon, CAATS
Tammy Shaw, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel

Supervisor Collins called the meeting to order and followed with the pledge to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Adelle Kleiman Levine
2. Rick Werwaiss
3. David Levow
4. Andy Beers
5. Jim Buckley

REPORTS: On File

1. Assessor
2. Code Enforcement/Building Inspector
3. Dog Control
4. Environmental Management Council
5. Finance Department
6. Highway Department
7. Justice Court
8. Office of the Aging Advisory Board
9. Recreation Director
10. Supervisor's Report
11. Town Clerk

Weldon said that in reviewing the correspondence he wanted to refer to something that Cindy said in her letter and other residents have raised this as well and it has to do with the method that the current Board uses to “elect” committee members. He’d like to put this on the agenda and review it to be sure we’re doing everything the way it should be done. Collins suggested that we put this on the agenda for the workshop meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report by Councilman Weldon and Councilman Pitkin: Parks & Recreation Committee.

They will be meeting next week. Trail work is continuing. The Boy Scouts pitched in. They’ve been working with the special needs high school class and volunteers have been working on cleaning up the Children’s Garden. Weldon had expected to hear from Mike West on the final items which need to be completed at the pavilion but did not at meeting time.

2. Report by Supervisor Collins: Citizens Finance & Planning Committee.

Collins said that the budget has taken most of their time. Wapner asked if the Budget Committee was still meeting. David Levow reported that they have been meeting every other month and the meetings were not well attended, there’s not a lot of interest. Some committee members show up but don’t really contribute. Weldon said that maybe we need to restructure the committee if we can’t get anyone to show up or to do any work when they do show up. Levow is in agreement.

3. Report by Councilman Weldon: Climate Smart/Action Task Force Committee.

Solarize Chatham – They put out to bid to 4 different providers that could participate in the program and two proposals came in but they want at least 3 for people to choose from. There’s a new round of grant funding through NYSERDA which this project will help make them eligible for. EV Watts - sent contract revisions and waiting for them to come back.

4. Report by Councilwoman Mesick: Communications Committee.

Mesick reported that the Committee would be meeting next week.

5. Report by Councilwoman Mesick: Comprehensive Plan Update Review Committee.

Mesick said that as far as Cindy’s letter and Weldon’s comments as well regarding committee appointments the people that were sitting on the committee were left in place. The only person that didn’t stay on a committee was Michael Richardson and later on for attendance reasons, Sue Tanner. There was no discussion about the people who stayed on the committees. Now that there are people that they want to put on committees they cry foul. Also, the Chair of the Dem. Committee “sat in” on the Towns last executive session that was held virtually. At the current time the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee has continued to accept letters of interest those in the community who wish to be on the committee. We have decided as a committee that there’s a particular type of person that would be best suited to fill Cindy Buckley’s vacant position. We believe we may have found that person in Angus Eaton possibly. He would be a wonderful addition. If Angus wants to continue to work with the Committee he will be their recommendation to put forth to the Board. They also have Troy Welby from CLC, who has been very helpful with the survey, which is moving along with Jeannie’s efforts. They’d like to have a draft put together in a few weeks.

Weldon responded asking Councilmember Mesick to not put words in his mouth. And he just suggested that we review our process because several town residents have raised questions about it just to be sure we’re doing everything right. He hasn’t made any accusations. Angus would make a great addition.

6. Report by Councilman Pitkin: Broadband Committee

Pitkin, at Gabriella's request wanted to thank Kelly Mackerer of PS21 for all her help with the PB and their meetings there. They are working on a map of the Broadband coverage throughout the town. They are using the survey data collected from the responses. Pitkin reported that he has been invited to join a County wide group, there's strength in numbers. There are exciting things in the works. They are still taking surveys if people are interested in participating.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Teamsters Collective Bargaining Contract (2021-2023)
2. Albany Turnpike Bridge

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution to Approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement

Resolution #123-20

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Chatham is authorized to approve fees by resolution under Town Code sections 124-16 and A190-18, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham hereby approves the amended schedule of Fees under A190-1; Building Permit Fees, A190-2; Certificate of Occupancy and A190-3; Swimming Pools and Ponds, contained in the amendments annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit A, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appendix to the Town Code shall be modified to reflect said amendments, which are effective immediately.

Offered by Weldon, seconded by Pitkin.

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Wapner and Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted.

2. Resolution to accept the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor's Report.

Resolution 124-20 To accept the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor's Report for September, 2020.

Offered by Mesick, seconded by Pitkin.

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Wapner and Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted.

3. Resolution to accept the Financial Abstract as presented to pay the Town bills.

Resolution 125-20 to accept the financial abstract as presented to pay the Town bills.

Offered by Pitkin, seconded by Weldon.

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Wapner and Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted.

4. Resolution 126-20 to approve Town Board Meeting minutes.

Resolution to approve the minutes of the Town Board Meetings for the following dates: September 3, 2020 and September 17, 2020.

Offered by Mesick, seconded by Pitkin.

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Pitkin, Mesick, Wapner and Weldon NAY: None Resolution adopted.

CONDUCT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT COMES BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD

Collins reported that the Public Hearing for the East Chatham Fire Department will be held on October 22 at 4:45.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Bobseine said that she did not sit in on an executive session. The letter she sent to the Board requested clarification on how committees were formed and that was a topic brought up by a number of people. Her question was about the process.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING

A motion was made by Collins to adjourn at 7:10PM, seconded by Weldon, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Anne Rippel, RMC
Town Clerk